

‘Yellow Face’ Explores Identity Across Generations, Continents

Sampan talks with cast of Lyric Stage play by David Henry Hwang

By Harmony Witte

“I’m always thinking about, ‘why are we doing this play now?’,” actor Michael Hisamoto told the Sampan of the Lyric Stage production of “Yellow Face.”

Hisamoto has a key role in the play, written by David Henry Hwang. The semi-autobiographical show is about the playwright, who appears in the play and is the narrator. It’s about Hwang’s life, his father, and the period of the 1990s and the 2000s. It covers big themes like the “yellow peril” and the Asian scares, even campaign finance scandals.

“He is trying to tell all that through a vessel, a character, Mar-

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CLASS ACT: ‘Yellow Face’ is now playing in Boston. Courtesy photo.

An Untold Victim of Anti-Immigrant Speech: Latino Teens and Families

By Esther Wang

Naikiry, a 20-year-old community college student and full-time worker, knows first-hand the trauma that can be caused when a Latinx family falls apart as it moves the U.S.

Her family began to unravel when they emigrated from the Dominican to the U.S. in 2015 and were forced to leave behind her mother, who has yet to join them here. The separation, along with the shock of arriving in a new country, caused Naikiry’s family to fall into depression, loneliness, and anxiety. Her father became addicted to alcohol and abusive.

“He was so aggressive he almost choked me. I would go to sleep scared he might kill me,” she recalls.

At 18, she was kicked out found herself homeless and on her own. Now

she’s the family’s financial provider.

Alex, who also did not want his last name in print, similarly, suffers from the distance that his move to the U.S. has brought between him and his family. As an immigrant originally from Venezuela, he has to be constantly on guard as he faces language barriers in his educational and work life; even the smallest paperwork error can endanger his status in the U.S. All of this has exacted a mental and physical toll on Alex.

Naikiry’s and Alex’s stories are shared by many Latinx immigrant youths in the U.S. But they often face another, pervasive threat: Anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies. Prominent politicians, both on the right and left, often embrace and espouse such sentiments. While former President Donald Trump is known to call various immigrant

groups names – accusing immigrants of “poisoning the blood” of the country and coming from “shit hole countries” – he’s not alone in using that kind of language that’s dominated political debates for years, and will surely come up in the November elections. Democratic Congressman Thomas Suozzi of New York, in pushing for tougher border security legislation, recently argued that, “immigration is a problem.”

Even though Naikiry and Alex are both in U.S. legally, they said that hearing politicians disparage immigrants and push strict measures against immigration, makes them feel in-secure about living here.

Alex said he fears getting deported and Naikiry said that hearing anti-immigrant rhetoric makes her “feel really

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SPECIAL GUEST OPINION

Sometimes Hard Work is Not Enough: So Expand Earned-Income Tax Credit

By Angela Divaris, Esq.
Greater Boston Legal Services
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The Earned-Income Tax Credit has been widely hailed as one of the most successful antipoverty programs in the country, and it's time our state allowed immigrants without Social Security numbers to benefit from the credit, too.

The EITC is aimed at boosting the incomes of low-to-moderate earners, especially those with minor children. There is a rich body of research showing how the EITC lifts millions of households out of poverty and encourages employment. Massachusetts is among the 31 states that have their own version of the EITC, building upon the federal benefit. This credit is so important that the IRS sponsors EITC Awareness Day every tax season to ensure the word gets out to workers who might miss out if they don't file their tax returns.

Despite the massive success of the EITC, too many otherwise income-eligible immigrant households are shut out simply because they file their tax returns with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) rather than a Social Security number. Ten states and the District of Columbia have reformed their tax codes to include ITIN filers, remedying this tax injustice. Will Massachusetts be next? Maybe – but only if more people keep asking the State House to fix this problem.

Immigrant ITIN filers pay billions of dollars in taxes year after year nationwide. Immigrant workers and business owners are essential to our national and local economies. In Massachusetts, a quarter of our workforce is foreign born and 220,000 lack Social Security numbers. Every year we help immigrants apply for ITINs at Greater Boston Legal Services and every year we see tax returns that could be generating thousands of dollars in refunds for hardworking families end up with tax debt, just because of the tax ID number on the return.

Working immigrant taxpayers who are ineligible for Social Security numbers are still required to file tax returns and the IRS issues these alternative tax identification numbers – ITINs – so that they may comply with their tax obligations. While the tax obligations of an ITIN filer household are the same as those with Social Security numbers, their access to tax credits is not. We think this is unfair and we are not alone. The Healthy Families Tax Credit Coalition (HFTC) is a statewide network of advocates working to improve the well-being of Massachusetts families and children by expanding the state EITC. The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, which is part of this coalition, released a report this

year correctly calling the exclusion a “tax penalty” for these families and estimating the expansion would reach up to 76,000 individuals at a cost of up to \$28 million. This is doable. The tax system is a critical part of the safety net and those of us who want to work against poverty must encourage our lawmakers to do what's right.

We shouldn't base our tax policy upon a broken immigration system. There has been no meaningful immigration reform since 1986. Even when the system works as intended, it is arbitrary, slow, and full of dead-ends. Many immigrants who eventually gain lawful documented status have faced long delays preventing them from obtaining Social Security numbers for years. This broken system results in many mixed-status households where some members have Social Security numbers and others do not. Meanwhile, these immigrants are not only working but they are raising their families and becoming integral members of our communities. In fact, most of those hurt by the EITC ITIN exclusion are U.S. born children in these households.

I often tell my clients that the IRS does not care if you have a work permit, they care if you work. Even if my client is paid under an unregistered Social Security number – thus joining the thousands of undocumented workers who contribute billions to a Social Security system they might never be able to access as seniors – the IRS will nevertheless issue the alternative tax ID number, accepting their W2 form as proof of their earnings and tax withholdings. If these workers are obliged to comply with tax laws, why not allow them the tax credits they have earned, too?

The story of my family, and I am sure of many of those reading this, is an immigrant journey and part of the great immigrant history of this country: We came seeking a safer, better life, and we believed that by working hard we could grasp some piece of the American dream. The EITC helps families who are still struggling despite working and addresses the gap between low wages and basic needs. Massachusetts is an expensive place to raise a family. The EITC makes it a little easier for hardworking people who are still poor. Excluding some families on the basis of their immigration status rather than their income needlessly reduces the statewide impact of the EITC. Modest changes in the tax code can make a huge difference in people's lives.

Last fall, the commonwealth of Massachusetts passed the biggest state tax reform in 20 years. We expanded our state EITC from 30% to 40% of the federal credit but did not include ITIN filers. That was a mistake. The state budget is now being developed and a group of lawmakers filed amendments

that would have expanded the EITC to ITIN filers, amendments which garnered a significant number of co-sponsors, but which ultimately failed. It is important to note that immigrants without Social Security numbers are eligible for the state Child and Family Credit (which affords \$310 per child under 13 and certain disabled dependents and spouses, regardless of the household's income or immigration status), so why not the EITC? If more people understand what is at stake and make this issue a priority with their legislators, then we will celebrate the next legislative session for recognizing immigrant workers as the taxpayers they are.

We should join California, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and Washington, D.C. which have broken with federal eligibility rules and expanded their EITCs to their ITIN holder residents. Only by leaving no worker behind can we realize the full potential and promise of the EITC and achieve an economy that works for all of us.

The tax system might be complicated, but promoting tax credits for working families is not.

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CHEF'S CHOICE: Dr. William Hsu, Bik-Fung Ng, Jasper White. Photo courtesy of Ng and by www.fourniemalloy.com.

Fond Memories of Jasper White Served Up by Local Chefs, Others

By DongDong Yang

Jasper White, who died last month at age 69, was a pioneering chef who significantly elevated New England cuisine through his restaurants, Jasper's and the Summer Shack. White's culinary legacy is deeply rooted in seafood, particularly his signature dish, pan-roasted lobster.

After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America, White honed his skills in dining rooms of several Boston hotels. He opened his first restaurant, Jasper's, in 1983. At Jasper's, White focused on modern American dishes using local ingredients, earning acclaim for his oysters and contributing to a revival of oyster dishes in the area. In 1991, White's dedication and skill earned him the inaugural James Beard Foundation Award for Best Chef in the Northeast.

Although White closed Jasper's in 1995, he made a triumphant return to the Boston food scene in 2000 with Jasper White's Summer Shack in Cambridge, followed by additional locations. The Summer Shack combined the charm of small seaside seafood shacks with White's unique culinary touch. White also wrote a cookbook which featured various seafood recipes.

He was deeply concerned about the health of the ocean, particularly off the East Coast, and became involved in local health initiatives for Asian Americans, as well. At his restaurants, he initiated the Chefs for the Sea program, encouraging diners to donate a dollar per meal to support Save the Harbor/Save the Bay programs. These initiatives aimed to ensure clean water and healthy seafood populations.

Jasper White's dedication to sustainable seafood and his culinary excellence continue to inspire chefs and food enthusiasts, cementing his place in the culinary world. He was more than just a renowned chef, he was a friend, mentor, and a warm-hearted member of the community.

"He was the most generous, intelligent, talented and caring person I have ever known," said White's close friend and community activist Bik-Fung Ng, who said she first met White in 1985, after getting introduced by mutual friend Lydia Shire. Ng noted the many initiatives

White had fostered, including founding the Asian American Diabetic Initiative study that showed that Asian Americans have twice the risk for diabetes than any other race. White also launched "A Taste of Ginger." Ng called that an extraordinary annual event that raised thousands for this important cause. There are many Asians whose lives are better because of this important research may never know Jasper White, but he was their unsung hero who worked hard to make the Asian communities a better place.

Ng fondly remembered a trip to China with White in 2000, "Jasper involved me in the planning and organization of that trip. It was particularly heartwarming to witness how much he loved everything about China, especially the cuisines of different Chinese provinces. His kindness toward the Asian communities and his curiosity about their cultures stood out for me."

Lydia Shire, a friend of White's for more than 40 years, remembers Jasper White as "the smartest, kindest and most solid man." Shire shared plans for an event to celebrate White's life in August.

"He taught me business skills, people skills, and the love of the industry," said Vinny Lombardi, a fellow chef. "As a Summer Shack family, we've been together for over 23 years now, and that speaks volumes about his leadership and how he brought people together."

Restaurateur and owner of Smoke Shop BBQ, Andy Husbands commented on the helpful nature of Jasper White. Remembering Jasper during the early 90s, Husbands said that White was "a looming figure in Boston and someone I idolized." When Husbands opened his own restaurant, White became a "a confidant, mentor, and eventually a friend."

Ming Tsai, fellow chef of White's and founder of MingBings, said: "He genuinely wanted to know how you were doing, and if you weren't doing well, he could tell. Jasper taught us to do things that made us happy.... He single-handedly popularized New England cooking. It's not just raw oysters and lobsters; he elevated it to the next level and really put Boston and New England on the map."

Jimmy Liang, founder of JP Fuji Group, talked about Jasper White's support for the Asian Community. "His

support for the Asian Community truly shows what kind of human being he was. His legacy as a chef and his dedication to the community will live on."

Joanne Chang, owner of Flour Bakery in Cambridge, commented on how White encouraged her in her career. "He was always encouraging me in my growth as a pastry chef. He was the antithesis of a screaming irate Chef. He was sweet, kind, gentle, passionate about great food and great service." Chang remembers how White had encouraged her to get involved with A Taste of Ginger, "He himself had suffered from diabetes and was treated so well by the Joslin Center and he wanted to continue to raise funds for them to help them with their research. He was always incredibly thoughtful and giving. He was a gem."

Dr. George L. King, professor of medicine and ophthalmology at Harvard, met White through the Joslin Diabetes Center and was involved in A Taste of Ginger and the Asian American Diabetes Initiative. "I had the honor of having Jasper as a friend for over 20 years. During our interactions, both in the Asian Clinic and social settings, he was always very caring and supportive of AADI, the Asian Clinic, and all our outreach efforts in the Asian American communities in Boston, Quincy, and Dorchester."

Dr. William Hsu, who was White's own doctor at the Joslin Diabetes Center, remembers how A Taste of Ginger began, one day when White "asked me after his visit, he said, 'Dr. Chu, I'd like to do something for you.' I thought he wanted to take me out to eat. He said, 'I will bring my friends over to cook to raise money for the Asian American Diabetes initiative.' That's actually the beginning."

Jimmy Burke, business partner and close friend of White's, attended culinary school alongside White. "We graduated the same year but what's funny is that we didn't know each other back then. We met each other when we were both working in Boston."

Burke remembers his last conversation, which occurred on the day of White's collapse, "We were talking about getting together. Jasper said 'lifting those oyster baskets is all core, my stomach is getting really strong and I'm getting a six pack.' And we started laughing."

Lunar New Year Now Holiday in Quincy As School Vote Bypassed

By Harmandeep Singh

Groups in Quincy fighting to establish the Lunar New Year as an official school holiday made a major win last month – but not in the way many expected.

Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch overrode the decision of the school committee to oppose the proposal for a Lunar New Year school holiday, following an earlier city council vote to recognize the day. But that move surprised the school board, which saw the mayor's decision as undermining the school group's authority.

Quincy residents in favor of the proposal and the Quincy school board had been at loggerheads on the issue since the school committee's vote on April 10, which brought in the 2024-25 calendar with no Lunar New Year holiday – despite Quincy's large Asian population, which is the highest in Massachusetts after Boston.

"Because Quincy hosts many diverse populations, each with their own unique traditions and holidays, it would be unfair to recognize one without affording the same recognition to others," said school board member Emily Lebo about the committee vote.

But some of those in support of the Lunar New Year ordinance told the Sampan they wonder why such a recognition must be presented as a predicament of choice. Quincy residents of various backgrounds voiced their support for the Lunar New Year holiday during a May 22 City Council hearing. Some noted the importance of Lunar New Year to the city of Quincy and argued that making it an official holiday would be a major step in acknowledging the Asian American history of Quincy.

Nearly 40% of students in Quincy Public Schools are Asian. The Lunar New Year, while it was not a holiday, was a day students were allowed excused absences. These absences lead to classes being nearly empty on the day. Many students had appealed to the city council through petitions.

Some residents are now questioning the intentions of the school board regarding their claims of equal recognition of all cultures. Quincy Schools are closed on Good Friday and on Columbus Day, for example.

"If the city leadership is not seeing, hearing, embracing and respecting us as good neighbors in Quincy, this is an attack to our self-worth and dignity,"

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In Face of Protest, Skip Schiel Wants You to Picture the Plight of Palestinians, Refugees

By Adam Smith

Photographer Skip Schiel keeps a photo of a boat full of refugees hanging on his wall in his home in Cambridge. It's not a photo that he took, but one that was sent to him in a fundraising campaign.

"I'm looking at it right now," he said during a phone call with the Sampan. "It was made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It's a boat full of people of different colors, maybe a 100 or more, looking up, smiling, mostly, at the camera."

Their destination, a better life, somewhere else, probably in Europe.

For Schiel, an 83-year-old "socially engaged" photographer, the image serves as a reminder of the plight of refugees around the world – all of the people forced out of their homes because of war, poverty, repression, natural disasters.

"I have it above a doorway connecting my kitchen and bedroom. It's just low enough so that each time I pass through it – like now – it hits my head," he said of the picture. "It's part of why I am doing what I'm doing."

Over the past several decades, Schiel's photographic journeys have taken him to places forever wounded by mass murder and war: Auschwitz, Hiroshima, Cambodia, Vietnam. He has also retraced the Atlantic-African slave trade. For the past two-decades, he has focused mainly on his project, "The Ongoing Nakba, Internally Displaced Palestinian Refugees in the West Bank and Gaza."

This effort has taken Schiel – during the years most Americans settle into retirement – back and forth through Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, to document survivors of the Nakba of 1948 in which it's estimated that more than 700,000 Palestinians lost their homes and became refugees.

But when Schiel attempted to present his works in the Newton Free Library last month, the reception was met with protesters who overwhelmed the event and effectively shut it down. A box truck circled around the library, with the faces and names of Newton's mayor and library director displayed on the side, accusing them of "hosting an exhibit promoting a vicious blood libel against the Jewish community."

A group of Palestinian American speakers at the reception were shouted down, as several protesters, according to Schiel and others, yelled words like "terrorist" and "anti-Semite."

While Schiel acknowledged that the protesters were not violent, he did feel they were allowed to "in effect, deny the free speech rights of the presenters, including me ... and any conversation we were going to have."

The reception in Newton would have included talking with and hearing from the local Palestinian-Americans.

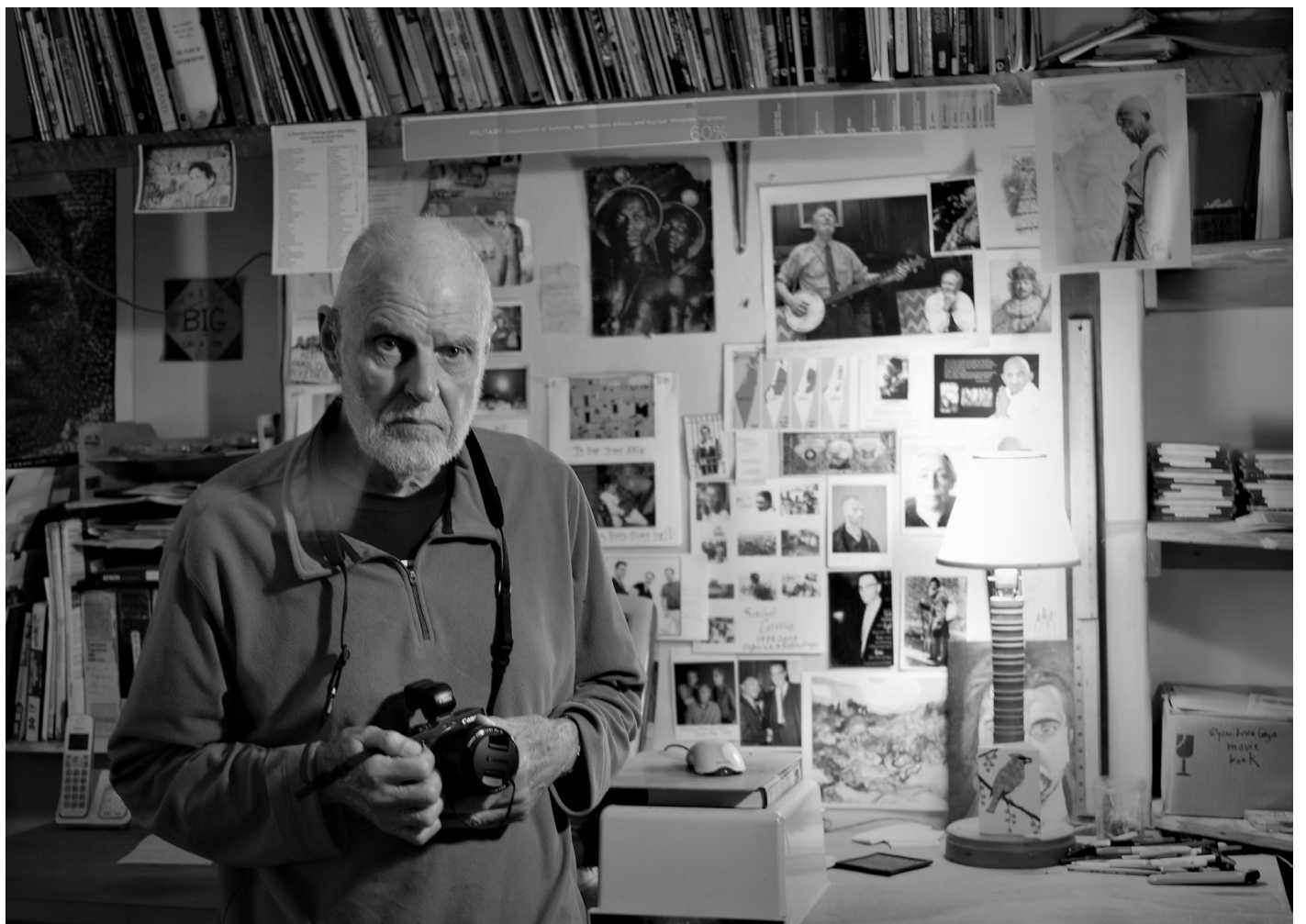
"Perhaps part of the opposition, and the attempt to shut it all down, was that people just did not want to hear that, because they would have to change their minds," said Schiel. "If they could hear from a human being, who looks mostly like them, and in fact who sent their kids through the same school system, that itself might be too dangerous."

Sampan spoke with Schiel by phone about topics including the reception that

or an Israeli settlement, I have to find something that points to, that indicates prior Arab or Palestinian habitation, like a destroyed mosque So that is the second half of my series.

What motivates me a lot is curiosity. ... I was very curious about the survivors. How are they? How do they look? How do they gesture? What are their homes like? I make a point, if possible, to always include in my frame something

tentially dangerous. ... But I've been in refugee camps repeatedly over 20 years without anyone else and I don't ever remember feeling too much danger, unless there was a ... threat from the Israeli military ... As you might know the camps are attacked fairly regularly, some more than others ... With that ... exception, I rarely felt danger.... But on other occasions, like in Gaza, if it's bombardment or drone attacks or some-



'SOCIOALLY ENGAGED': Photographer Skip Schiel at his home in Cambridge.

Photo by Adam Smith

couldn't go on as planned, his photography, and his Nakba project. The following has been edited and rearranged for readability, clarity and brevity.

Sampan: So you had portraits of people, families, and different historical sites in this exhibit.... Are you trying to put a human face on this, so that people see these Palestinians as themselves or their own family members?

Schiel: You've described one aspect very well: to humanize the story, so people can see directly into the faces, the homes, of what I call the Nakba survivors. But also (to see) their original homelands. ... I have portraits in black and white and landscapes, or what I call "site photographs," of a curious color. People call it sepia, but I call it a misty, cloudy look. I interview and photograph, and I learn where they are from. They are from locations, now in Israel, that are mostly unavailable to them. So, I have a privilege – from my passport, from my nationality – and I can go almost anywhere there. I can be a surrogate for them... I can go back to their original village, to their original town, their rural area and – if I can find it – I can photograph it. I can't just photograph rubble or open space,

in the background, a couch, a painting, a drawing, a photograph, to give some sense of where people live. I am very curious about who they are; I am very curious about where they are – mostly refugee camps – and then also, about their former homelands.

Sampan: ...What are you thinking in terms of safety ... are you worried for your safety?

Schiel: ... This project I made under special conditions, which means I worked with a Palestinian; I have three or five different people that I work with – paid – and they would locate survivors, introduce me to them, gaining trust, and help with the translation. The most common case would be after the introductions, and a few starting questions from me that would be translated into Arabic by my assistant, the conversation would then be between my translator and the person, and that freed me up. I didn't have to pay attention to the conversation, I could think about different angles, I could move around a lot.

.... In the case of the Nakba project, I rarely felt any danger, because I was with somebody, even though we were in refugee camps, which could be po-

thing like that, I would feel the danger. If I'm photographing in the West Bank and the soldiers or the police are present ... I have to be very careful. ... But I had to make a decision early on, "Am I willing to die for this?" And I said, yes, this is a cause that matters so much to me.

Sampan: What did you think about the treatment of the library director – her face and name were on the truck?

Schiel: Right, the mayor was there, too, so it was a paired picture on one of those illuminated sign trucks. It was the mayor and the main library director ... The headline was "Shame" – I don't remember the full text, but "shame" for allowing this exhibit to go ahead. The mayor had produced a statement earlier, that in effect said two things, that this is a very fraught moment in history and to have this exhibit at this particular time and at this particular location is unwise; I forget her words exactly. ... But they shamed the (library director) who was a major part in allowing the exhibit to go ahead. She could have canceled it. And I was very worried about this around February and March that this could all be canceled or that this reception could be canceled.



© Skip Schiel 2019 teeksaphoto.org
DISPLACED: Great granddaughters of Maryam Abdallah Abu Lateefa, living in the Kalandia Refugee Camp, Occupied West Bank, originally from a Palestinian village now in Israel. Photo by Skip Schiel

Palestinian-American Speaks Out After Library Photo Reception Taken Over

By Adam Smith

Laila Kassis had never heard of Skip Schiel's photography before she was asked to talk at the reception in mid-May for the exhibit "The Ongoing Nakba, Internally Displaced Palestinian Refugees in the West Bank and Gaza."

Kassis, a Palestinian-American, said when she did see the 14 or so photos in the show, she noted how underwhelming it all was, given the subject. "It was very simple and innocuous."

There was no big statement or in-your-face message, just photos of the everyday life of Palestinians and places they once called home.

But one image struck her in particular: It was a picture of two girls, around age 8 or 12, sleeping in the afternoon sunlight.

"The reason I selected the photo is the girls reminded me of my own daughter, who is 11," said Kassis, who was set to talk at the reception last month about her life as a Palestinian and what the image meant to her. The photo reminded her of her own family trips to her home town of Al-Rama in upper Galilee – the summer nights – and the love that her daughter felt when visiting.

"But another reason I picked the photo is it was of two girls who didn't necessarily look Palestinian, but it looked like they could be any two girls from any country around the world. It looked like they could be a Palestinian and a Jew, side-by-side, and for me that was the most important emotion that it evoked," she said. "I deeply believe in and want us to live together side by side in peace and harmony with everyone having their human rights respected and feeling that they are free."

So Kassis said she was shocked and saddened when she got up to speak at the show at the Newton Free Library, and it was overwhelmed by protesters.

One man, she said, yelled out "terrorist!" several times at her and the other two Palestinian-Americans who were going to speak, and another person shouted, "rapist!" and she could hear profanities tossed at those who were part of the reception.

'You have to keep in mind some of the core pillars of our democracy. The right to free speech is first and foremost.'

"People were booing and hissing and making noise so we couldn't speak," said Kassis. "I'm very saddened by the fact that people wanted to shut it down. ... It's not as if we came to make a statement."

Instead, what they came to discuss was their perspectives as Palestinians, how they related to the photos of people and the places that were their former homes, and their sense of shared trauma: "Palestinians did experience a lot of trauma and continue to do so today."

And, she said, insults thrown at her during the exhibit and other discriminatory and hateful language she's heard from politicians and others over the past many months has been disturbing.

"You have to keep in mind some of the core pillars of our democracy. The right to free speech is first and foremost. The reason that our democracy works so well is that people can

engage in civil discourse and debate and criticisms of government actions in a civil way. And it is so foundational to our democracy and our freedom that we can practice that right. I do think our leaders have a responsibility in the messages that they are sending to ensure people are able to protest and ... express their views in a peaceful and constructive manner. And I do think that some of the rhetoric veers on enticing less-than-peaceful engagement, or entices the kind of discourse that leads to more divisiveness."

As for Kassis' children, her daughter and younger son, Kassis said she tries to shield them from some of the "harshest" language and that they were not at the reception. "I do believe my kids have an understanding of what's going on. They do hear about some of it and see it. But I do believe they are pro-justice oriented."

She said they know about the number of children killed by the Israeli military since the Oct. 7 attacks, and they are upset that people who try to speak out are shut down.

"I think there are many groups throughout history who have suffered, and I think it's OK for them to come out and share that ... with other people. I don't think (people) should come out and protest that. ... I believe that any group has the right to share their lived experience and their family history, without being protested for doing so."

Kassis added that just because one group is going up and sharing its suffering, doesn't mean that group is attacking another group.

"No, that's not the case. All throughout history, people have suffered, people have been wronged. The only way to to move forward is by sharing and acknowledging that."

Pride Month, and a Ways to Go for Some

By Tracy Huang

Two decades after Massachusetts legalized gay marriage and after decades of battles for equal rights for gays and lesbians, the struggle for acceptance still continues for some, especially in Asian American communities.

"I came out to my parents in high school, where I hoped that they would be accepting of the fact that I had a girlfriend, instead of their Christian Korean boyfriend standard," a Korean-American Boston College student, who wishes to keep her name private, told the Sampan recently.

Her parents immediately separated the two. "I was not allowed to see my girlfriend ever again. These days I identify with being bisexual in hopes that I can find someone who can live up to my parent's expectations."

As June marks Pride Month, the month to celebrate people who identify with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer, or LGBTQ, discrimination and misunderstandings persist. Queer acceptance has come a long way over the past half a century. It was only in 2003 that Lawrence vs. Texas was decided by the Supreme Court, effectively protecting the rights of same-sex relationships in all 50 states. In that landmark decision, a Texas law that had criminalized consensual, sexual conduct between individuals of the same sex was found to violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

That came after the HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s, which at the time was largely viewed a disease of gay men.

But despite the progress made by the LGBTQ community, many obstacles remain.

Cindy Truong, director of the Non-Binary/Transgender National Association of Asian American Professionals, for example, points out that most common queer spaces are "male and pale."

Truong says the majority of queer spaces, or safe places for LGBTQ people, focus on the homosexual, white male gay population, and that there is not enough representation to cover the full spectrum of being queer and Asian. Truong said that Pride month should be a way of reflecting and appreciating the past, while also thinking ahead to the future of the community.

"As an international student from China, I feel like Massachusetts is relatively safe, welcoming, and accepting," another college student told Sampan, but added, "As a gay individual, my family doesn't know about it. I'm pretty sure if they know we will face ongoing conflicts or estrangement. ... Families' reactions can be influenced by traditional values and cultural expectations. Furthermore, I never proclaim 'I'm coming out,' because I believe that, like heterosexuals, people do not have to say it if they are straight."



SHOWTIME: 'Yellow Face' is playing through June 23 at the Lyric Stage in Boston. Courtesy Photo.

'Yellow Face' Tackles Big Topics of Today, Yesterday

Continued from Page 1

cus G. Dahlman. He is a white person that gets mistaken for Asian, embraces that he is Asian American, and it all becomes a conversation about who gets to decide what your race is, where you belong in the community, and eventually working toward a future in which race really does not matter, in a positive way, and in which people can be who they want to be," said actor Alexander Holden, who plays Dahlman.

Sampan spoke with several people involved in the Lyric Stage production, including Ted Hewlett, and actors Hisamoto and Holden, to understand the show and its bigger message.

And, to answer Hisamoto's question, of why now?

"It's funny because on most days in rehearsal, we would be able to say something in one of the lines, and it was like, 'My God, I just read that in *The New York Times* today!'" said Hewlett.

"The conversations about Chinese people being able or not able to buy land in Florida and the difference between Chinese Americans vs. China, that those are not one and the same thing. And that Americans can come from everywhere and all walks of life. That also doesn't mean that we don't

have global competition and, frankly, enemies in the world as far as political rivalries and ongoing conflicts and war and all that. But there has been such a history of vilifying Americans who come from whatever our current enemy is, whether that's often China now or Asia in general in the time period of the play, or Japanese Americans in World War Two. So, there have been a lot of timely news articles that it's like 'Wow, we're still having this conversation through a slightly different prism.'"

Playwright Hwang, added Hewlett, "does a great job of poking holes in a lot of tropes and making fun of people, most certainly himself, but there's a lot of seriousness underneath the jokes as well."

He said he was originally concerned it was going to be challenging to stage and direct the play, because it is not traditionally written, colliding wildly across space and time, jumping forward and back.

"It goes in and out of sort of what I already said about the reality vs. the fiction, living with that and it takes place across the United States and across continents. It was going to need to have a set and costumes. All the technical elements needed to be able to support these wildly changing locations," said the director.

The show has only six actors,

some of whom play 15 to 20 roles each, creating technical obstacles such as switching in and out of costumes.

The production also challenged the actors.

"I was reading all about what was going on with TikTok and especially the interviews of the CEO, and thinking about this whole question of what does it mean to be assumed to be Chinese if you're working for a Chinese company but not a Chinese national and these kinds of things," said Hisamoto, of the controversy around the video-sharing application.

"But as we've explored the play, it's really kind of honed into how these seemingly microaggressions can start to affect us on a more personal level, how they can cause fractures within the community, in our interpersonal relationships. So, the thing that I've been really focusing on in the play is actually my relationship with my father in the play. And that's meant a lot, because there's a lot of mirrors with my own life of how ... what's my relationship with my own father? How do we communicate? And what were his dreams for the world, and how do I either take that mantle on or leave it behind?"

Holden says he personally connects to the production because he is half Asian, half white.

"A lot of times I do face these questions about, 'what are you really?' or 'Where are you from?' 'Where do you identify yourself more as Asian or more white?' And my standpoint for this play is, I identify as both. And I feel like there is a world in which I can fully identify as both. I'm not more Asian than white, I'm just Asian and white at the same time."

"The general audience," he said, "will probably take away from this play kind of being enlightened about or kind of have a different perspective or see a different perspective in how they perceive race or how they can kind of interact with people of those different mainly Asian races. I feel like this is a pretty important conversation that's happening right now, and we're bringing a perspective to that conversation that is pretty unique to us in our all-Asian production."

He added, "I really do feel like this is a special play. I know we do Asian theater. Asian shows seem to be somewhat of a staple in the Boston scene, but I feel like this one is a very special one, very topical. I hope that everyone comes to see it and kind of take away whatever new perspective that they can from this play."

The play runs from through June 23 at the Lyric Stage in Boston. Tickets for "Yellow Face" can be purchased at www.lyricstage.com.

IN THE NEWS:

Community Leaders Meet at Dim Sum Gathering

Boston Chinese community leaders met for a special Dim Sum lunch at the Empire Garden restaurant on May 29. From left to right are Chinatown leaders: Leo Guen, Felix Liu, Dr. Robert Wu, Alyssa Wang, Nick Chau, Mary Chin, Amy Guen.
-DongDong Yang



How Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric Hurts Latino Teens, Families

Continued from Page 1

bad. I feel discriminated against.” Just how damaging is this type of language to those very targets of the rhetoric – to the immigrants and the refugees, themselves? A new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in May 2024 sheds some light on the matter. The study establishes a link between the wider political climate and the mental health of immigrants, affirming that rising anti-immigrant rhetoric in the

U.S. has led to increased mental health issues for Latinx adolescents.

“The study is important because it demonstrates the impacts of restrictive, anti-immigrant U.S. immigration policies in the daily lives of immigrant families,” said Elizabeth Vaquera, one of the study’s researchers. “Policymakers often describe immigration as a threat or danger with a focus largely on the U.S.-Mexico border without realizing the consequences of that type of rhetoric and policy approach on the millions

of immigrants deeply rooted here in the U.S.”

The stress that these immigrants feel has been especially pronounced following the 2016 presidential election, found the study, titled “US Immigration Policy Stressors and Latinx Youth Mental Health.” At that time, Mexican-origin adolescents have reported worrying about threats such as family separation, and evidence has tied anti-immigrant rhetoric and actions to “greater mental health symptoms of Latinx adolescents,” according to the study.

Amid measures and language that target immigrants, Latinx communities find themselves exposed to the threat of deportations, difficulties in obtaining education and employment, and reduced access to medical care. Together, this immigrant-hostile language and policy heightens the vulnerability of the historically marginalized Latinx population in the U.S., especially through the mental health of youths.

The authors of the study draw from data of Latinx mothers and kids, obtained in two-year intervals between 2018 and 2022, to assess the change in mental health between early and late adolescence. In looking at the immigration-related stressors that harm family relationships, they considered topics such mothers’ worries such as about a lack of job opportunities, behavior modification (like avoiding medical care), and any past-year detention or deportation of a family member. The findings showed that increased levels in all three factors yielded corresponding increases in parent-child conflict and decreases in parental support. This, in turn, is linked to future mental health symptoms in adolescents – including an increase in suicidal thoughts. The conclusions also reveal that decline in parental support is particularly devastating for adolescent girls, with a significant connection between lack of parental support and mental health issues in Latinx girls.

The study adds to other relevant research conducted in recent years that focus on the vulnerability of Latinx

families nationally in which immigration is more sensitive and contentious. A related study in the Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology earlier this year considers the role of the Covid-19 pandemic in exacerbating stressors — through both hostile sentiment and policy — for Latinx families. Another published in the American Academy of Pediatrics last year examines the relationship between state laws unfriendly to immigrants and the physical and mental health of Latinx youth, concluding that Latinx children living under such legislation are more likely to suffer from poor physical and mental health.

As research solidifies the connection between anti-immigrant sentiment and immigrants’ mental health, calls for countermeasures have also increased. The JAMA study highlights the need for educational structures, health institutions, and policymakers to take action. School instructors should take advantage of their proximity to Latinx youths to offer them health support and educational opportunities. Hospitals can do their part by rolling out culturally-inclusive health services, especially given that some immigrant communities still experience mental health stigma. Finally, policymakers need to recognize the vulnerability of Latinx immigrants and take steps to mitigate the harmful consequences of anti-immigrant laws.

As Kathleen Roche, another one of the authors of the study, put it: “We have a youth mental health crisis. This crisis is elevated for Latino youth, and these kids are primarily U.S. citizens.”

But the rhetoric and policies are likely to hit many other immigrant groups, as well.

“When we talk about immigrants, while my research largely focuses on the Latinx community,” Vaquera told the Sampan, “we need to have a more expansive contribution about other immigrant groups, too, that are often excluded from policy discussions and debates.”

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2 PERSONS - \$104,200 (80%)	5 PERSONS - \$140,700 (80%)
3 PERSONS - \$117,250 (80%)	6 PERSONS - \$151,100 (80%)

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Public Information Meeting Via Zoom.com

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 24, 2024

Go to Zoom.com and provide the following, when prompted:
Meeting ID: 829 1759 2804 Passcode: 029445

Application Deadline:

Postmarked on or before July 17, 2024

Lottery Via Zoom.com

3:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Go to Zoom.com and provide the following, when prompted:
Meeting ID: 837 3564 4214 Passcode: 259581

APPLICATIONS AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS MUST BE MAILED TO:

MCO Housing Services, P.O. Box 372, Harvard, MA 01451
PHONE: 978-456-8388

Overnight/Drop Off: 206 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA 01451
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousing.com

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PUBLIC LIBRARY OR WOBURN CITY CLERK’S OFFICE

ONLINE AT: www.mcohousing.com

OR BY REQUEST AT: 978-456-8388 or lotteryinfo@mcohousing.com
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Job Corner

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Position: Dietary Aide, FT Boston
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 Weekends and holidays required
 Website: tuftsmedicalcenter.org

Public Safety Officer I, PT Lowell,
 24 hours per week, Day/Evening shift
 High School Diploma or GED Re-
 quired
 Working towards a degree in Criminal
 Justice preferred but not required
 Military or Law Enforcement Experi-
 ence, preferred but not required
 Valid Driver's License
 Website: tuftsmedicalcenter.org

Boston Medical Center-Boston,
 Position: General Service Associate -
 40 Hrs, Eve, and Rotating Weekends
 Work requires the ability to read, fol-
 low oral and written instructions in
 English at a level acquired through the
 completion of elementary school
 Ability to learn and perform basic

housekeeping practices and under-
 stands the policies and procedures of
 the hospital
 HS Diploma or completion of GED
 preferred
 Apply at www.jobs.bmc.org
 Contact: Caroline Cafer, 617-414-7066,
caroline.cafer@bmc.org

Position: Patient Transporter
 40 Hrs - 8:00am to 4:30pm - and Rotat-
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 High school diploma or GED preferred
 Requires 6-12 months of experience in
 customer service or patient transporta-
 tion.
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 cess to a vehicle

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 and valid Massachusetts
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 obtain one upon hire. Valid Massachu-
 setts Hoisting Engineer License 1B or
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Boston Centerless
 Position: Machine Straightener, 2nd
 shift, 4:00 P.M. to 12:45 A.M, Woburn
 Training for 30 days on days from
 10:00 A.M.-6:45 P.M
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 A.M.-Monday through Friday.
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 *\$21.85.
 Apply at: www.bostoncenterless.com
 Contact: Steven Vanaria svanaria@bostoncenterless.com

South Cove Community Health Center
 Position: Member Services (FT) – Bos-
 ton. Salary: \$20/hr
 Apply at Email: Careers@scchc.org

**Social Services Assistant (FT) – Bos-
 ton/Malden**
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Apply at Email: Careers@scchc.org

RN – Pediatrics – Boston
 Registered nurse, licensed by
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 One+ years of nursing in an outpatient
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 darin. Vietnamese is a plus.
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 elementary programs/school leadership
 and data collection
 At least 3 years experience in urban
 school system working with a racially,
 culturally, and linguistically diverse
 student body
 Website: <https://www.bostonpublic-schools.org/>
 Contact Info: Recruitment@Boston-PublicSchools.org

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 seling
 MA DESE School Social Worker/
 School Adjustment Counselor License
 (All Levels)
 Licensed Social Worker (LCSW or
 LICSW) or Licensed Mental Health
 Counselor (LMHC); or eligible for
 a Social Worker license (LCSW or
 LICSW) or Mental Health Counselor
 license (LMHC).

Architectural Designer (Boston, MA) -
 Develop construction sets. Adjust and create
 designs/layouts. Comply with industry
 regulations. Work on 3D modeling and 3D
 rendering. Design drawings and charrettes. Set
 up building permit and other approval sets.
 Reqs: Bachelors in Architecture & 5 yrs exp OR
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 Boston MA 02118.

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 50 YEARS
Turning hope into help

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Events Calendar

Boston Pride For The People is excited to announce Pride Month celebration in Boston on June 8th, 2024. The celebration will include a parade, a festival, and more!
 Ribbon Cutting: 10:30 a.m.
 Parade 11:00 AM-12:30 p.m.
 Boston Common Festival: 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
 City Hall Plaza Block Party : 2 - 8:00 p.m.
 For the latest information about the Festival, please visit: www.bostonprideforthepeople.org

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
 Location: Farrison Avenue, Boston, MA
 Details: Interested in a career in public service? Join us for a workshop where you can meet retired public servants and get expert tips on successfully applying for government jobs. Learn how to navigate USAJOBS.gov, build a resume that stands out, and understand the federal hiring process to secure an interview. This workshop is in collaboration with Boston Chinese Freemasons Athletic Club.
 Admission: FREE

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024
 Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Location: Trinity Church Boston, 206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116
 Details: Join the community at Trinity Church Boston on the Clarendon Porch to cheer on the participants of the Pride Parade! Trinity Church, part of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, is dedicated to inclusivity and celebrates the worth and dignity of every person. This event is a perfect opportunity to celebrate diversity and show support for the LGBTQ+ community in a vibrant and welcoming setting.
 Admission: FREE
 More Information: <https://www.trinitychurchboston.org/event/pride-parade-watch-party-2>

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Location: Nantasket Beach - David Cook Comfort Station, 200 Hull Shore Drive, Hull, MA 02045
 Details: Join us for the annual New England Longboard Classic Surf Contest, a celebration of surfing and community spirit since 1999. This family-friendly event at Nantasket Beach encourages participants to enjoy a day of longboarding, stand-up paddleboarding, and boogie boarding. Whether the waves are small or large, the focus is on fun and friendship, not competition. Come for a relaxed day of stoke and surfing with friends old and new.
 Admission: FREE

Wiggles Playgroup at Mattapan Library
 Date: Monday, June 10, 2024
 Time: 10:30 a.m. - noon
 Location: Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library, 1350 Blue Hill Ave, Mattapan, MA 02126
 Details: Children ages 1-4 and their caregivers are invited to our Monday morning playgroup. Engage in activities that encourage early literacy and motor skill development, including playing with scarves, balls, simple crafts, coloring, and occasionally Play-Doh. This is a great opportunity for little ones to make new friends and for caregivers to help foster early reading skills through play.
 Admission: FREE
 More Information: <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?q=wiggles>

TEMPLE Art Exhibition
 Dates: Now through June 14, 2024
 Location: Blue Triangle Gallery, 17 Edinboro St. #3, Boston, MA 02111
 Details: Join us at the Blue Triangle Gallery for the TEMPLE exhibition featuring a diverse range of artistic expressions. The show includes notable works such as "I Could Never Forget You" by Brian MacNeil (oil on linen, 30"x34") and "Ground into the Ground" by EK Harper (ink on hand-dyed paper, 11"x14"). Don't miss the unique Flash Sheets provided by several artists, available for purchase. Special thanks to our opening night vendors: Topo Chico, Stormalong Cider, and Dope Dinners.
 Open Hours: Fridays 4-8 p.m. & Saturdays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Admission: FREE
 More Information: <https://www.onthemarkarchery.com/cambridge>

Event: Archery Experience at King School Gym
 Date: Saturday, June 1, 2024
 Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Location: King School Gym, 101 Kinnaird Street, Cambridge, MA 02139
 Details: Kick off the weekend with a traditional style archery session at the MLK Jr. School Gym! This event, perfect for friends, family, and neighbors, offers a chance to learn how to shoot a bow and arrow. Whether you're the sharpest shooter in your group or looking to meet new people, join us for a high-energy, fast-paced evening of fun. No previous experience is necessary. All equipment and instruction provided for 1.5 hours of range time.
 Admission: \$60
 More Information: <https://www.onthemarkarchery.com/cambridge>

Event: SUP Yoga Session
 Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024
 Time: 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
 Location: Fort Point Channel, 1 Binford St, Boston, MA
 Details: Experience the unique challenge of yoga on a stand-up paddleboard (SUP) with our SUP Yoga session! Perfect for enhancing your yoga practice, this session requires extra balance and focus, intensifying your routine while connecting you with the tranquility of nature. The paddleboard serves as your yoga mat on the water, increasing core strength and concentration. Join us to elevate your yoga experience and challenge your practice in a serene environment.
 Admission: \$45
 More Information: <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/supyo adventures/items/348848/?full-items=yes&flow=667386>

Event: Community Workshop: Exploring Careers in Public Service
 Date: Saturday, June 15, 2024

Event: Pride Parade Watch Party at Trinity Church

Event: New England Longboard Classic Surf Contest
 Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024

Event: Walk to Cure Arthritis Boston
 Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024
 Time: 9:00 a.m. - noon



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Maximum Allowable Income 80% AMI

1 person: \$91,200
 2 person: \$104,200
 3 person: \$117,250
 4 person: \$130,250
 5 person: \$140,700
 6 person: \$151,100

Reasonable Accommodations Available for persons with disabilities

Public Information Meeting – via Zoom.com
 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2024
 Meeting ID: 837 8401 1494
 Passcode: 477349

Language/translation assistance available, at no charge, upon request.

For Info and Application Availability:
Pick Up: Norwell Town Hall, - Town Clerk's Ofc, Public Library, Leasing Office
Phone: (978) 456-8388/FAX: 978-456-8986
TTY/TTD: 711, when asked 978-456-8388
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

Application Deadline
 July 18, 2024

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Maximum Allowable Income 80% AMI

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 3 person: \$117,250
 4 person: \$130,250

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Public Information Meeting via Zoom.com
 6:30 P.m., Monday June 10, 2024
 Meeting ID: 875 6907 2003
 Passcode: 565524

Language/translation assistance available, at no charge, upon request.

For Info and Application Availability:
Pick Up: Bellingham Municipal Center, Town Clerk's Office, Public Library
Phone: (978) 456-8388/FAX: 978-456-8986
TTY/TTD: 711
Email: lotteryinfo@mcohousingservices.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE
 July 8, 2024

Reasonable Accommodations Available for persons with disabilities.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: www.mcohousingservices.com

Clean Energy Activist Frank Pao Sees the Light

By Kristen Si

The U.S. Small Business Administration is lifting a loan program cap for clean energy projects for small businesses. With these new regulations, small businesses will be able to take out as many loans as they would like for up to \$5.5 million to fund energy reduction or clean energy projects. These new policies come as part of a series of policy changes urging for cleaner energy from the Biden-Harris administration.

Amid these new policy changes, Sampan had the opportunity to speak with climate change activist Frank Pao, who works for the organization Climate X Change. Pao is looking to reduce carbon emissions by implementing new renewable energy technologies into our everyday lives. Pao is the author of "For the Beauty of the Earth: Solutions to Net Zero Energy," a book that focuses on his proposals for achieving a net zero-emissions world.

Sampan: When we think about clean energy, we mostly think of solar, wind, and other renewable sources of power. What do you think are the most prominent innovations in renewable energy right now and why?

Pao: In the field of energy, I believe that solar power should be the main resource that we should look to depend on. Why?... First of all, the current technology we have to capture solar power is based on silicon. Silicon is the second most abundant resource in the

world, often derived from sand. So why not make use of it? ...

Sampan: Many people see solar energy as a relatively new source of energy for everyday or commercial use. Do you think solar energy will be able to be made cheaper for consumers?

Pao: Yes, I do believe that solar energy will be cheap for regular consumers. In many of the new solar technologies I see and propose, the application of solar energy will be made in households.

Sampan: What current energy inefficiencies you see in the average home in Boston right now.

Pao: First of all, our buildings are not really strong enough. ... Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has been working on revising building codes, which I think is very important. The strength of the material and quality of insulation is vital to the longevity of buildings and their energy efficiency. When you install solar panels, the hope is also to help increase the longevity of the building.... I have traveled to Europe in the past, and seen how thick some of the walls in these countries can be. I really think that the average home in Boston needs improvement in its overall structure. By improving the materials that these homes are made of, we can really boost the efficiency of renewable energy, such as solar panels.

Sampan: Some people have argued that solar energy is unreliable, as it

requires access to direct sunlight, which may be lacking ... during the winter months. What sort of solutions have you seen to this problem?

Pao: That's a very understandable concern. However, we really need to think of a more multi-faceted idea for renewable energy. If you have a thermal and electric system under the same roof as a home using solar energy, you can often store excess energy from solar panels and utilize this energy during times where there may not be enough sunlight – such as during the winter time... This will help increase the reliability of solar energy.

Sampan: What are some disadvantages you see in other types of renewable energy that make you believe that solar energy is the right direction forward?

Pao: First of all, one big advantage of solar energy is that there is a lack of moving parts involved. Wind energy involves a lot of moving parts, making it very costly to maintain. Additionally, wind energy is not very consistent and can be easily interfered with by wildlife such as birds.... Due to the abundance of silicon, solar energy is a much cheaper and convenient alternative.

Sampan: Shifting gears a bit, something that is a concern to many proponents of clean energy is being able to get around governmental red tape. In fact, a recent study conducted by Boston University researchers

has found that U.S. mayors find red tape to be one of the hurdles toward getting clean energy projects off the ground. What challenges do you see facing solar energy from governmental regulations?

Pao: Government red tape often depends on the state, but there are a lot of policies I think that can be implemented to help progress solar energy usage. I think that one effective mode of policy to help push people can be found in Germany in the early 2000s. Under this policy, for every kilowatt used that was produced using renewable energy, the government reimbursed in euros. I think that if the federal government were to implement such a policy, it would help lift some of the resistance towards these projects from government red tape.

Sampan: For our readers who may be interested in getting solar energy, what do you think the takeaway message should be?

Pao: I believe that solar energy being gathered from the home is best, as alternatives such as solar farms take up valuable land and disrupt local ecosystems. I think it is really important to get the word out about these technologies, as if the quality of the product is good, solar energy can have significant longevity – we're taking 30-40 years.

For more see: <https://sampan.org/2023/leisure/an-interview-with-for-the-beauty-of-the-earth-solutions-to-net-zero-energy-author-frank-c-pao/>



HAMEL-LYDON CHAPEL
&
CREMATION SERVICE OF MASSACHUSETTS
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2 Locations in Quincy

Our Chapel and main office is located at 650 Hancock Street in the Wollaston part of Quincy, Massachusetts. Most services are provided at this location. However, we also have a larger venue in Quincy Center where we can accommodate funerals with up to 300 guests.

Asian Funeral Staff

Chinese-speaking staff are trained to assist families and guests throughout the funeral process. We are committed to providing excellent service and speak Cantonese, Mandarin, Toisanese and Fuzhounese.

Asian Funeral Customs and Traditions

Our team of experienced funeral counselors will discuss and guide families on the traditional Chinese rites and customs throughout the funeral process.

Religious Ceremonies

We can accommodate Buddhist and Christian services. We work with various local Asian temples and churches in the community to provide religious services at the funeral.

Affordable, All-Inclusive Asian Burial and Cremation Plans

We offer various funeral package plans that include services and merchandise catered to traditional needs of Asian families.

Various Cremation Options

Over the years, we have helped thousands of families through the cremation process and it is an honor to be of assistance to those who place their trust and confidence in us during this difficult time. Our counselors can explain the process of cremation and specialized services we offer to our families in need. Our cremation services extend across Massachusetts, covering the entire state.

Pre-Planning Funeral Consultations

Our licensed Funeral Directors can meet with you to discuss your wishes and provide you with guidance and assistance to set up pre-need funeral plans.

English: (617)472-5888 • 中文: (617)657-9016

Funeral Directors: Christopher P. Goulet, Sr. & Michelle Lydon

Director of Asian Services: Lola Tom 亞裔服務主任: 譚秀婷

650 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02170 • HamelLydon.com

Littleton Affordable Housing Lottery Age-Restricted (55+), Co-Housing Community 336 King Street, Littleton, MA

\$163,300 for a 60% AMI 1 Bedroom Home (condo fees approx. \$143/month)
\$253,900 for an 80% AMI 1 Bedroom Home (condo fees approx. \$192/month)

Maximum Household Income Limits

80% Area Median Income (AMI) Home: \$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people)
60% Area Median Income (AMI) Home: \$62,538 (1 person), \$71,472 (2 people)

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is \$275,000

This is a lottery for 2 affordable, 1 bedroom homes within Hager Homestead, an age-restricted (55+) co-housing community. One of the affordable homes will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 80% of AMI, and the other affordable home will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 60% of AMI. Hager Homestead offers privately owned homes clustered around shared green space and a common house with extensive shared amenities. Community members have as much privacy as they want in their homes and can find community by opening their front door. Hager Homestead's 15-acre King Street site, a former dairy farm, is a short walk from Littleton Center, Town Hall, the public library, and future senior center, and is not far from the commuter rail station. The property abuts walking trails and conservation land. Hager's 4,000-square-foot common house (built in 1795) will be the social center with a large dining room and kitchen, living room, library and other amenities. While each home will have a full kitchen, members may choose optional group meals in the common house. Common areas and walking paths are designed so members will meet informally.

Public Info Session: July 1, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

Application Deadline: July 29, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications must be received or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received within five (5) business days.

Lottery: August 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (x2) and leave a message, or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.



Quincy Schools Now Recognizes Chinese New Year Holiday

Continued from Page 3

Mai Du of Wah Lum Kung Fu & Tai Chi Academy, told the Sampan.

Quincy resident Peter Ng spoke at the Quincy city council meeting on May 22 about the importance of Lunar New Year to Quincy residents. "Recognizing Lunar New Year with a school closure would demonstrate the committee's commitment to inclusivity and respect for the cultural traditions of a vital segment of our community," said Ng.

Residents also spoke to highlight the importance of Lunar New Year to the city and the reasons why making it an official holiday is a major step in acknowledging the AAPI history of Quincy. It was during this May meeting that Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch overrode the decision of the school board to declare Lunar New Year a school holiday.

The United Nations in December adopted the Lunar New Year as its eighth official floating holiday. The Lunar New Year became the eighth floating holiday recognized by the UN, alongside Yom Kippur, Vesak Day, Diwali, Gurburab, Orthodox Christmas, Orthodox Good Friday and Nowruz.

The UN decision capped off a year that saw several U.S. states recognize the Lunar New Year as an official holiday. Colorado, New Jersey, and Washington were the three states to officially recognize Lunar New Year as a holiday. They joined California, which had rec-

ognized the holiday in September 2022. State representatives there emphasized the importance of recognizing the work, history, and importance of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. As Colorado's Nga Vrong-Sandoval, chair of the Lunar New Year Allies Advisory Group, explained to the Denverite in June 2023, the recognition of the holiday is "not just for us, but for those before us and those after us."

Locally, towns such as Brookline and others recognize the holiday. Boston had passed a resolution that designated the Lunar New Year as a city-wide holiday. The statement issued by the Boston City Council recognized the immediate issue of the increased number of hate crimes, but it also foregrounded the historically important role of the AAPI communities of Boston. The statement declared "AAPIs are an integral part of our city and our society; they are our neighbors, frontline healthcare workers, school teachers, small business owners, policymakers, military members, youth sports coaches, and others."

The statement recognized that "AAPIs have faced strong institutional discrimination and racism throughout history," with examples from the past such as the Japanese Internment during World War 2, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, and the recent issues like the "significant increase of racist incidents and hate crimes committed against AAPI residents, since COVID-19."



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728 Broadway, Saugus, MA

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<https://form.jotform.com/SEBHousing/atwood>

Seven Studios @ \$2,050; Thirty-Four 1BR @ \$2,154; Twenty-Six 2BRs @ \$2,566, Eight 3BR @ \$2,949
* Tenants will be responsible for paying electricity (which is used for cooking, heating, hot water), water, and sewer. One free parking space is included. Additional spaces can be rented for a fee. Pets are permitted and there is a maximum of two pets per unit. Rents after the first year of a lease are subject to change.

Atwood is a brand-new, 300-unit apartment community located off Route 1 in Saugus, featuring high end Studio, 1BR, 2BR, and 3BR apartments. Through this process, 75 apartments will be made available to households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income. All apartments feature stainless steel appliances, in unit laundry machines, and quartz countertops. The building amenities include an outdoor pool, fitness center, resident lounges, grilling stations, pet spa, and more. The building is located on Route 1 and provides easy access to Boston and many local businesses and restaurants. Units are expected to be ready for occupancy in August 2024.

Maximum Household Income Limits
\$91,200 (1 person), \$104,200 (2 people), \$117,250 (3 people)
\$130,250 (4 people), \$140,700 (5 people) \$151,100 (6 people)

Public Info Session: June 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159

Application Deadline: July 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Completed Applications must be delivered by this date. Applications can be sent to: SEB Housing (re: Atwood), 257 Hillside Ave, Needham, MA 02135; or faxed to: (617) 782-4500; or emailed to: info@sebhousing.com.

Lottery: August 6, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410
Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Atwood on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.
For Lottery Information, Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1 to leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.

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